

### PLANNERS HOLD UP PROJECTS

Action was held up on several projects by the Planning Commission last week. In every case a committee was appointed to study the feasibility of the requests.

Allan N. Young requested permission to build six houses on lot 76, LaFrea Tract. This property is located on the northeast corner of 168th street and Yukon Ave. in an A-1 zone. He wanted to build the houses with 756 square feet of floor area instead of the minimum of 800 square feet as provided by city ordinance. Planning commissioner Beverly Smith appointed commissioners H. R. Black, Luther Mumford, and John Salm to look into the matter.

Request of R. G. and J. E. Miller for a zone change for lot 2, block 8, tract 4070 which is located on the south side of Torrance Blvd. between Crenshaw Blvd. and Date Ave., was denied. Secretary of the Commission Earl Lloyd pointed out that exceptions in this area are handled by variance rather than zone changes.

### Permits Fall Off

Building permits for single dwellings have dropped better than 100% during 1951 as compared with the year 1950. In 1950, 2,108 homes were built in Torrance.

Up to November of this year, figures show that 825 permits have been taken out to date. It is estimated by building department personnel that from 200 to 500 permits may be taken out between now and the close of the current year which would bring the figures for this year up over 1,000.

**VARIOUS REASONS**

Various reasons for the decline in building have been forthcoming. Some city hall officials believe that priorities and the lack of cheap property are beginning to slow down the mushrooming of tract and individual homes.

Several of the large subdivisions say that they are being stymied between the Planning Commission and City Council and are losing their interest in Torrance.

Even with the slowdown in building activity, Torrance is better than holding its own in the California picture.

**PERMIT BREAKDOWN**

From November, 1950 through October, 1951, there were 1,619 single dwelling permits applied for in Torrance. A breakdown of

the building permits for single homes follows:

North Torrance, 551; Central Torrance, 679; Seaside, 179; Hollywood Riviera, 137, and WALTERIA, 73.

Subdivisions which are active include Truman Browne, completing 150 homes and the Community Airport Tract in North Torrance, ready to break ground for 55 homes.

The January Company's 129 home tract is being held up between the City Council and Planning Commission. It is believed that Bowles and Company may break ground in the near future for 500 homes, just west of the Truman Browne tract.

### Bus Figures

Comparative figures on Torrance and two Los Angeles County school bus transportation systems are shown below:

	School System Tor.		Los Angeles
	A	B	
No. Students	1259	1900	1500
One way N. Sq. Mi.	40	40	18
In Dist.			
Seating Capacity of Buses	925	1064	581

### Vandalism Falls Off In Schools

An intelligent approach to the elimination of vandalism is being practiced by the Torrance schools. It was disclosed in the current issue of Torrance Schools.

It was pointed out that some teachers have had arithmetic classes compute the cost of broken windows in terms of balls and bats that the replacement money would have bought.

"If you have received a letter from your child," stated the article, "asking your help in the matter, it is part of an English lesson. Sympathetic response from parents have helped to establish the importance of the problem."

It was revealed that due to the cooperation of the parents, the PTA, the recreation department, and the children, not a single case of vandalism was reported during Halloween.

If in business for yourself, tell the other fellow about it through a "Business Service"

### County Loans Fire Truck to Palos Verdes

**PORTUGUESE BEND** — This rapidly growing Palos Verdes Peninsula community has been loaned a full-time fire truck by the Los Angeles County Fire Department so the coastal area can fight its own fires until the arrival of professional County crews and equipment.

The truck, replete with a 150-pound pressure tank, hose, chemical materials and other fire fighting equipment, is being housed at the Portuguese Bend Riding Club.

Coincident with stationing of the truck at Portuguese Bend, the area is going into the County's Consolidated Fire District which already includes Rolling Hills and other County territory surrounding the Peninsula.

Appointed as auxiliary firemen to man the Portuguese Bend truck were Glen Young, Carleton Pegram, Adrian Ailes, George Fisher, Roger DeYoung and John Morrison. The Portuguese Bend Property Owners' Association and the Portuguese Bend Club Improvement Association will appoint volunteer firemen to assist the auxiliary crew.

They go to bat for you, those little

### Scout Plans Made

troop committee members were present at the regular monthly Neighborhood Club meeting at the YWCA held Monday, December 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. in the lecture room of the local library. Mrs. P. E. Humphreys, District Chairman was in charge of the meeting.

The Annual Section luncheon to be held in the Torrance Civic Auditorium, Wednesday, January 9, 1952 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. was discussed.

Five centerpieces are to be furnished by Torrance District, which should be delivered to the auditorium not later than 11:30 a.m. The circles of the Methodist Church will prepare and serve the luncheon featuring turkey. It was suggested that a member of their sponsoring group be invited by each troop to attend the luncheon, which will be \$1.35 per person. Mrs. Humphreys may be contacted at Torrance 557, regarding reservations.

A Council-wide Annual breakfast will be served at the Elks Club, 607 South Parkview avenue, Los Angeles, Tuesday, January 29, 1952 at 8:45 a.m. Tickets will be \$1.50.

On Wednesday, December 12 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. a training course for Neighborhood Chairmen will be given at the Homer Toberman Settlement house, 131 North Grand avenue, San Pedro.

All Junior and Senior High Troops are eligible to send two representatives to the regular Junior-Senior Council of Girl Scouts meeting, Wednesday, December 19, at 7 p.m. in the Mc-Master Park Recreation Hall, Yukon and 174th street, North Torrance.

Saturday, May 17, 1952 has been chosen for the annual Juliette Low Gathering, location to be announced later. Camping and the use of the Girl Scout Laws to interpret camping, will be the theme.

The annual cookie sale will be held in February 1952. In order to meet an anticipated budget deficit, it is hoped each Girl Scout will be able to sell at least twenty-eight boxes of cookies.

Mrs. Olive Dixon, Field Executive of the Harbor Section, is resigning January 1, 1952. All Girl Scout leaders have come to know Mrs. Dixon as a friend and she will be greatly missed, it was disclosed.



POPULAR ACTRESS—Virginia Mayo holds sample of Christmas Seals. All proceeds go to fight Tuberculosis.

### Decline in Jobless Noted

Employment in this area dropped slightly from last month. Many of those on the jobless role are persons seeking work for the holiday season only, it was stated by Mrs. Winona Ellis, manager of California State Employment Service office here.

On the list now are 1303 persons, as compared with 1316 for the same time in November. Most on the list are skilled workers, and almost half are women.

### Benner Favors Water Vacation

"Torrance's present water system was quite suitable for a population of 10,000 but it is entirely inadequate for today's population of 31,000 or the anticipated population of 90,000 for 1960," Torrance Fire Chief J. J. Benner disclosed.

Benner also pointed out that an adequate water system plays a great part in the National Board of Fire Underwriters for establishing the city's rating of fire insurance. The chief said, "As a taxpayer and chief of the Torrance Fire Department, I urge every adult to get out and vote for more water for our fast growing city."

Benner pointed out that the city of Torrance is confronted with a serious shortage of available water and pressure for fire fighting purposes. The city has grown to a great degree and will continue growing if we install an adequate water system to protect lives, homes, schools, factories and the merchantile district of the city.

The Water Election on January 8 is aimed to get a "yes" from the citizens for more storage tanks, more mains, and more pumps. The election will also decide on a ten million gallon reservoir in South Torrance and a twenty-four inch pipeline running up and down Crenshaw Blvd., designed to give the water system a backbone.

One serious bottleneck of the fire fighting system is at the junction of 190th and Crenshaw avenue, where the Metropolitan Water enters North Torrance. Installation of four twelve-inch pressure reducing valves, controls, and meters, at 190th and Western, as suggested in the election, will be a valuable fire safety measure, Benner believes.

### 2 Local Boys Become 'Airmen'

Two Torrance soldiers half-seriously added "airmen" to the list of nicknames they've collected from their Army training.

They were Sgt. Gall Cox, 2116 1/2 Andreo street, and Cpl. Bobby L. Tyler, 822 Sartori avenue, both members of Company C, 578th Engineer Battalion, former Inglewood National Guard unit.

The unit made a one-hour training flight in huge Air Force C-119 and C-46 cargo planes as a climax to several weeks' training in combat air transportability.

They had previously qualified as land-fighting "seaman" by making a sea voyage and practice amphibious landing at Chigasaki Beach, near Yokohama, last summer.

Cox is a platoon sergeant in the Inglewood unit while Tyler serves as a platoon medic.

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**School Building**

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of El Camino College it was revealed that construction of much needed school buildings was being held up because of government restrictions on essential materials.

Forrest G. Murdock, college president, said that appeals have been made to Senators Knowland and Nixon and Representative King to aid in securing government approval of the construction jobs.

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